

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-16 (canceled).

17. (new) A cutting mechanism for an installation (A) for producing extruded plastic or laminated tubes (2) comprising a carriage (6) which can be moved back and forth with respect to a base (7), a cutting device (5) mounted on the carriage (6), wherein the carriage (6) with the mounted cutting device (5) is formed as a linear motor and is movable with respect to the base (7).

18. (new) A cutting mechanism for an installation (A) for producing extruded plastic or laminated tubes (2) comprising a carriage (6) which can be moved back and forth with respect to a base (7), a cutting device (5) mounted on the carriage (6) comprising a linear motor, wherein a linear back and forth movement of the carriage (6) with respect to the base (7) is controlled and/or regulated as the slave by means of a transporting mechanism (4) which is arranged upstream of the cutting device (5), as the master.

19. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 17 or 18, wherein the carriage (6) is moved back and forth with respect to a base (7) in a linear direction by means of at least one linear guide (10.1, 10.2).

20. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein the carriage (6) is mounted in such a way that it can be moved linearly with respect to the base 7, by means of two linear guides (10.1, 10.2) arranged parallel to each other.

21. (new) A cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein the carriage (6) is assigned at least one permanent magnet (12).

22. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 21, wherein a plurality of permanent magnets (12) are arranged between two linear guides (10.1, 10.2) in the region of an underside (11) of the carriage (6).

23. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 21, wherein a plurality of permanent magnets (12) are arranged in the region of the underside (11) of the carriage (6), and are spaced apart from one another over the full length of the carriage (6).

24. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least one activatable coil (15) is provided in the base (7).

25. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 24, wherein the at least one coil (15) is located between the linear guides (10.1, 10.2) and is assigned to the base (7), the at least one coil (15) is arranged near the permanent magnets (12) of the carriage (6) between the linear guides (10.1, 10.2).

26. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein at least one activatable coil (15) is provided in the region of an underside (11) of the carriage (6) and at least one permanent magnet (12) is provided in the base (7), wherein the coil and the magnet interact with each other.

27. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cutting device (5) is formed by a rotating knife unit (8) and at least one servo motor (9), and the knife unit (8) has a centering piece (17) at one end and a guiding sleeve (16) arranged upstream of the centering piece (17).

28. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein the carriage (6) has a stop (19) and interacts in an end position with two buffer elements (20) which are spaced apart, assigned to the base (7) and formed as spring damper elements (21).

29. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein the base (7) is assigned two spaced apart inductive proximity switches (22.1, 22.2) which serve as a zero-point determination during a reference running time of the carriage (6).

30. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein linear movement of the carriage (6) with respect to the base (7) can be regulated and controlled by means of a linear guide (10.1, 10.2) and is activated by means of the at least one coil (15) assigned to the base (7), with regard to acceleration, negative acceleration and with regard to the maximum deflection.

31. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 30, wherein the carriage (6) can be moved back and forth with respect to the fixed base (7) virtually without any contact in an actively driven manner over at least one magnetic track (24.1, 24.2), which is provided inside or outside the linear guides (10), parallel to the latter.

32. (new) The cutting mechanism as claimed in claim 31, wherein the base (7) and/or the linear guide (10.1, 10.2) is assigned an

incremental or inductive length measuring system (18), which interacts with the carriage (6) for exact positional determination, it being possible by means of this positional determination for the speed of the carriage (6) to be determined and regulated.